The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
February 18, 2000

Brinkman publishes article on history of Field Museum paleontology

The Geology Department would like to congratulate fossil preparator **Paul Brinkman**, who recently had an article published by The Society of Natural History in their journal *Archives of Natural History.*

Elmer Riggs hauling *Brachiosaurus altithorax* bones by wagon to Grand Junction, Colorado. Neg. CSGE03929.

Paul's article, titled "Establishing Vertebrate Paleontology at Chicago's Field Columbian Museum, 1893-1898," provides an in-depth look at the people who decided to establish a vertebrate paleontology program at The Field Museum (now one of the best in the world). The article also includes a description and map of Elmer Riggs' first expedition and some rare photographs from that period.

FIELD NOTES

Week of February 21

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Lecture Hall 2
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

MetLife On-Site Quotes
- Wednesday, 9:30 to 3:30, Campaign Center

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Public Events/Campus Events

Presidents' Day, Monday
- Free trolley service (see inside)

Mask and Puppet Making workshop
- Saturday and Sunday

The **Natural News** is published every Friday and edited by Rodger Patience in the Development department. Send stories, artwork, ideas to patience@fmnh.org or call ext. 7286. The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at noon.

Sue This Week

The north fountain in Stanley Field Hall has been removed, and workers are reconditioning the marble floor where Sue will be mounted. Cosmetic surgery will continue for the next few weeks, so expect intermittent noise from behind the white curtain.

Plans underway for new Sue Store

With the arrival of the Sue exhibit will come the opening of an exciting new Sue Store. The Sue Store will replace (and nearly double the size of) the current Dino Store on the upper level near Life Over Time and the McDonald's Prep Lab.
Deconstruction of the Dino Store will begin in April in order to get the Sue Store ready for the unveiling on May 17. The new store will have an innovative, high-tech design and promises to be an attractive, highly profitable addition to the Museum.
The new Sue Store will carry a variety of Sue merchandise, both conventional and unexpected—as well as general dinosaur merchandise for kids and adults. The Sue Store should be an exciting component of the whole Sue experience for our visitors.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Update on the Blackhawks game

Due to the small number of staff interested in attending the February 16 Blackhawks game, we were unable to purchase the quantity(100) needed to attend. Instead, we hope that you enjoyed "The Thomas Crown Affair" at the movie night and dinner last Wednesday.

Submitted by Human Resources

Phone books are in!

The 2000 phone books are now available in the mailroom.

New staff and volunteer quarterly orientation

Monday, February 28 • 1 to 4 pm • Lecture Hall 2

A special behind-the-scenes look at the Museum designed for new staff and volunteers. This welcoming event is specially targeted toward those individuals who started their employment or volunteer service anytime from the end of October 1999 thru February 2000.

RSVP to the Human Resources department at ext. 7271 by Thursday, February 24.

Administrative office renovation notes

During the weekend of February 19-20 the following departments will be moving to temporary locations: Membership, Strategic Planning, Finance, Public Services Administration and Protection Services. All departments will be moved into their new locations by Monday morning.

All departments except Finance will be moving into Hall 3 behind Corner Bakery. Finance will remain within the ground floor administration area and will be accessible by the corridor leading to Institutional Advancement and the corridor leading to the Cashier's Cage. The Cashier's cage will not move.

The departments moving into Hall 3 will be accessible to staff by using the staircase behind Corner Bakery. Out of courtesy, please do not cut through Corner Bakery to access these offices. Protection Services and the Access Control Office will be accessible to the public.

For more information, please see last week's *Natural News* or visit the Administration Renovation bulletin board located in the President's Office.

Submitted by **Julie Baker**

KUDOS

Two appointed to curatorial ranks

January 2000 saw the appointment of two new assistant curators in Zoology—**Petra Sierwald** and **Margaret Thayer**. Both had served as adjunct curators in Insects prior to joining the career-track curatorial ranks.

Sierwald is an expert in spiders and millipedes, and serves as the managing editor of the *Journal of Arachnology*, and organized the International Congress of Arachnology at the Museum in 1998. She is also the recipient of a prestigious PEET grant (Partnership for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy), focusing on the systematics of millipedes.

Thayer, who specializes in the study of staphylinid beetles, is executive editor of *Annales Zoologici*, and organized the Entomological Society of America symposium in 1998.

Besides being widely published and respected in their respective fields, both scientists have helped build the Museum's Insects collection, and have made strong contributions to a wide variety of public education efforts, including the **Underground Adventure** and **Living Colors** exhibits, the Biodiversity Explorers and "Bug Camp" intern programs, and Chicago Wilderness programs.

Submitted by **John Flynn**

Watch for a fabulous selection of unique and colorful masks for sale in the Museum Store.

MetLife On-Site Quotes

Wednesday, February 23
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Campaign Center

A MetLife representative will be on-site on February 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to conduct free, no obligation quotes on the personal insurance lines they are now offering staff and volunteers at special group rates (home, auto, renters, fire, etc.). If you are interested in learning about the rates that will be available to you through the MetPay program, stop by the Campaign Center on the 23rd. If you have an existing policy, bring the *declaration page from your current policy* to compare rates. If you do not have an existing policy, the MetLife representative will be able to discuss with you your insurance needs. If you have any questions, call Human Resources at ext. 7271.

Inside-Out: Creating a database of your ideas

In recent weeks I've been working my way around the Museum asking people to share their thoughts and ideas on "Inside Out." This concept, pioneered through Members' Nights and further explored through such exhibition spaces as the McDonald's Prep Lab, received a great deal of attention during the strategic planning process.

Looking forward, how can we best interpret and apply the "Inside-Out" concept to immerse visitors in authentic science and the worlds of nature and culture? How can we welcome them to the "hidden" museum—who we are and what we do behind the scenes? I've met with many of you already and built an extensive database of ideas, but maybe I've missed something. If you have thoughts on "Inside Out" that you'd like to share, please email them to me at bwagner@fmnh.org Your contributions and ideas are much appreciated.

Submitted by Bryn Wagner Hanson

Museum Campus Chicago announces trolley service

The free trolley service will operate on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to accommodate visitors. There are two routes: the Parking Lot/Campus route and the CTA/Campus Route. Trolleys on the Parking Lot/Campus Route transport visitors to and from the parking lots with stops at the Adler, Field and Shedd. Trolleys on the CTA/Campus Route transport visitors to and from the CTA Green and Orange Line, the CTA Red Line, the Chicago Hilton and the Roosevelt Road Metra with stops at the Adler, Field and Shedd.

After Monday, February 21 the trolleys will resume the current weekend operating schedule until late March. A spring break trolley schedule will be announced soon.

Ibeji Women's Festival seeks volunteers

On Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, the Education Department will co-host the Ibeji International Women's Festival: Creation Stories & Dances of Women. The festival is being co-organized with the Ibeji Resource Center, a community organization. It will consist of a day-long Festival and a Conference (both on Saturday) and Saturday-Sunday Overnight. The Festival is free with admission. The Conference is $85 per person ($72 members), the Overnight is $55 per person ($46 members). The cost for both the Conference and Overnight is $140 ($118 members). Many volunteers are needed, so please call ext. 7509 for more information and to get involved.

Submitted by Randy Strickland

2000

March

2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2-16-00			1 Cinema Academy-JST 8am-2pm 500 RJose-JST 6am-6pm	2 Univ. of Chg – SFH /Rice 6:30pm-8:30pm 200 MdeNardo-Living Togther/Sds fr Valt/Rice/SFH 9am-1:30pm BAdams-JST 3pm-10pm	3 Ed-Overnight JFrazier- Rice 7:30am-4:30pm Jason Project- JST 6am-6pm	4 BAdams-SFH/Rice/JST 8am-12am 500 Jason Project-JST 6am-6pm
5 BAdams-SFH/Rice 8am-4pm	6 Jason Project-JST 6am-6pm Bcantu-Dead Sea Scrolls 6pm-9pm	7 Temp Exh-Press Preview-SFH 10:00am-10:00pm Exh Opening-5:00pm-10:00pm BAdams-JST 3pm-10pm	8 Jason Project-JST 6am-6pm SWebb-SFH/Dead Sea Scrolls 9am-10pm	9 SWebb-SFH/Dead Sea Scrolls 9:00am-10:00pm 1000 Jason Project-JST 6am-6pm SPowell-Dead Sea Scrolls/Library 4:30pm-9pm	10 Ed-Overnight JFrazier-Rice 7:30am-4:30pm Dead Sea Scrolls OPENS Jason Project-JST 6am-6pm	11 B. Crownover-SFH/Rice/DSS 10am-3pm JFrazier-JST 9:30am-11:00am
12 LFrench-Rice/Dead Sea Scrolls 6pm-11pm 100 RStrickland-JST Noon-5pm 900 LSanders-Dead Sea Scrolls/Siragusa Ctr 3pm-10pm	13 JFrazier-Whole Museum 4:30pm-8:00pm LSanders-Undgrd Adv/Siragusa Ctr 3pm-9pm	14 LSanders-Dead Sea Exh/Siragusa Ctr 3pm-9pm JFrazier-Rice/JST 8:30am-5pm BAdams-JST 6:30pm-9:00pm 900 MABloom-DSS-7:30pm-10pm	15 RPolutnik-Rice/DSS 11:30am-2:30pm 44	16 MdeNardo-Living Togther 9am-1:30pm JFrazier-Dead Sea Scrolls-9am-11:30am BAdams-JST/Life Over Time 3pm-10p m LSanders-Siragusa/Rice 11am-4:30pm VFishers-JST 9am-2pm 100	17 Phonak-SFH 7:00pm-12:00am 500 JFrazier-Rice 7:30am-4:30pm Mdenardo-JST 8am-2pm	18 Firstar Corp-SFH 7pm-11pm 300 MdeNardo-SFH/Rice/Sds fr Vlt/Mammals/Meso Amr 1pm-3:30pm
19 LSanders-SFH/Dead Sea Scrolls /Siragusa Ctr 5:30pm-7:30pm Rstrickland-JST 12Noon-5pm Mdenardo-SFH 8am-3pm 500 Lsanders-Rice 12:30-4:30pm Ahaaskell-DSS 11am-6pm	20 Set-up for Electronic Field Trip Sibel-Dead Sea Scrolls-5pm-9pm BAdams-JST 4pm-10pm Nidudakis-Rice/Masks/Mammals 12pm-9pm	21 Sibel-Dead Sea Scrolls-7am-3pm BAdams-Rice/JST/Siragusa Ctr 3pm-10pm Electronic Field Trip—tentative LaSalle Bank-SFH/Bal 6pm-10pm	22 JKerr-Siragusa Ctr /JST/Dead Sea Scrolls /Rice 12pm-12am 500	23 AHaskell-SFH/Rice/Dead Sea Scrolls 3pm-10pm Cinema Academy-JST 8am-2pm BAdams-Life Over Time/JST 5pm-9pm 800	24 Ed-Overnight JFrazier-Rice 7:30am-4:30pm	25 St. Mary Med. Ctr-SFH 7:00pm-11:00pm 300 EBriseno-JST/Siragusa Ctr 9am-4pm MdeNardo-Mammals/Sds fr Vlts/Meso Amr/Rice 1pm-3:30pm
26 LSanders-Siragusa Ctr/Dead Sea Scrolls 4:30pm-8:30pm 100 MdeNardo-SFH/Mammals/Sds fr Vlt/Meso Amr/Rice 1pm-3:30pm Ahaskell-DSS 12pm-11pm 300	27 Ahaskell-SFH/Rice/Dead Sea Scrolls 5pm-10pm 100 SPRING BREAK STARTS SOME SUBURBAN SCHOOLS	28 BAdams-JST 4pm-10pm LSanders-Dead Sea Scrolls/SFH/Siragusa Ctr 3pm-9:30pm Rpolutnik-Rice 11am-2pm 50	29 U. Chg Amer.Soc Neurochemistry-SFH/Balcony 6:30pm-11:00pm 400 LSanders-Dead Sea Scrolls 5:30pm-8:00pm 150 JKrynytzky-Mammals/Birds 6pm-9pm 25	30 MdeNardo-Living Together-9am-1pm Jdel aPaz-SFH/Sounds from the Vaults 6:30pm-9:00pm 150 LSanders-Dead Sea Scrolls/Undergrd Mudroom/Siragusa Ctr 3pm-8pm 150 Rpolutnik-Rice 11am-2pm 100 VFisher-JST 9am-2pm	31 AHaskell-SFH/Rice 5pm-10pm 100 JFrazier –Rice 7:30am-4:30pm Golden Apple-Siragusa Ctr/JST/Lower Level Egypt a6pm-10:30pm 800	

Thank-you to the *Masks* project team

On Saturday, February 19 **Masks: Faces of Culture** opens to the public at the Field Museum. This extraordinary exhibition brings together an amazing variety of masks and costumes from around the world and lets visitors discover the meanings behind the masks in new and provocative ways.

Gratitude goes to **Cara McCarty** and **John W. Nunley**, the curators from the Saint Louis Art Museum who organized the original exhibition. Both were generous with their time and support and encouraged us to explore creative new avenues for our own presentation. On this end, our thanks go to **Alaka Wali**, the academic advisor to the project, who will help us examine the connections between the masks in this exhibition and those in our own collections.

We're sure that everyone who visits **Masks**—both Museum staff and the public—will be amazed by the experience of walking through this exhibition. Once again, the Museum's exhibit designers and production staff have avoided cookie cutter solutions, searching instead for the unique approach which brings an exhibition to life. Exhibit designer **David Layman**, graphic designer **Lori Walsh**, lighting designer **Trigg Waller**, and production supervisor **Paul Brunsvold** pooled their experience and inspiration to create a truly memorable exhibition. Assisting them were graphic technician **John Petreikis** and lighting technicians **Abe Bloom**, **Russ Flack**, and **Bob McLennen**. Crew chiefs **Bruce Heimbach**, **Rudy Garcia**, and **George Chavez** supervised the work of preparators **Brian Dettmer**, **Amanda Flood**, **Ashley Golden**, **David Hanke**, **Robert Hughes**, **David Mendez**, **Donna Tocci**, **Robert Tolnai**, **Kara Verges**, and **Lauren Was**.

Developer **Matt Matcuk** helped us with label writing and graphic designer **Danielle Kiefer** produced most of the beautiful printed guides and invitations to the show. Conservator **Joel Thompson** worked with representatives from the Saint Louis Art Museum during condition reporting and installation of the fragile masks. In the Education Department, **Erica Kelly** coordinated the efforts of **Beth Crownover**, **John Frazier**, and **Mark Larson**, who will implement an exciting series of Masks-related programs.

And, last but not least, special thanks go to **Jeanelle de le Paz** in the Exhibits department for her invaluable help in managing all the day-to-day, nitty gritty tasks that would fall through the cracks if someone wasn't watching.

Submitted by **David Foster**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

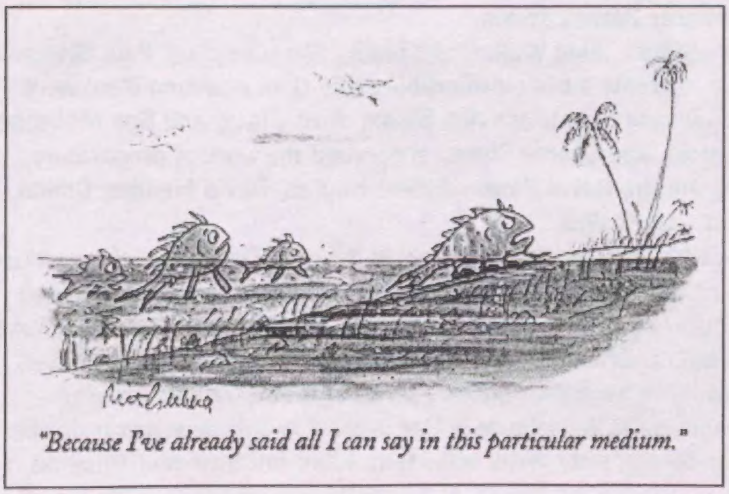
The Snail That Roared: Conservation efforts in Japan's Seto Inland Sea

The Seto Inland Sea, a large body of water between the Japanese islands of Honshu and Kyushu connected to the Pacific Ocean, contains some of the few unspoiled marine habitats in Japan. Proposals to build a nuclear power plant on a small island in the Seto Sea have generated substantial public concern. Tanoura on Nagashima Island was eventually chosen—unfortunately the area of highest shallow-water diversity. The proposed landfills would wipe out a unique invertebrate community with local endemics and numerous "red-listed" endangered forms. A little snail of the family Cornirostridae is known only from that exact locality and this millimeter-sized gastropod has now become the "Spotted Owl" of the Inland Sea.

Associate curator and Zoology chair **Rüdiger Bieler** specializes in this particular molluscan group and has worked with similar invertebrate communities and conservation concerns in Florida. He has recently returned from Japan, where he studied the potential impact of the power plant construction, consulted with local biologists, and testified before local decision makers and the Japanese press. He was joined by research associate Paula Mikkelsen (American Museum), Winston Ponder (Australian Museum, Sydney), and Rob Cowie (Bishop Museum, Honolulu). The local grassroots support and interest, ranging from Inland Sea fishermen and labor leaders to local Shinto priests, was tremendous. The media attention was equally overwhelming, with several days of coverage by four national and

regional TV stations. Twelve newspaper reporters even followed not only the oral presentations but literally followed Rüdiger into the tide pools where he looked at the animals.

While it remains to be seen if and where the plant will be constructed, Japanese colleagues see the media attention as a considerable success for biodiversity and conservation issues. The ten-day trip was also packed with other activities, including the International Symposium on the Nature of Nagashima, where Rüdiger spoke on "Assessing molluscan biodiversity: collecting baseline data and reconstructing the past" (stressing the relevance of museum collections and community involvement in biodiversity studies and monitoring). Another invited presentation, this time at the Annual Congress of the Malacological Society of Japan, gave results from Rüdiger's research program on gastropod phylogeny. In spite of the unusually cold temperatures (car travel was occasionally impossible because of severe snowfall), three days of field collecting at both the Pacific and Japan Sea coasts netted several hundred molluscan species for our collections, including long-sought tissue samples from two rare deep-water gastropod families.



"Because I've already said all I can say in this particular medium."

"We just haven't been flapping them hard enough."